CLAIMS:

1. A method of coding at least part of an audio signal in order to obtain an encoded signal, the method comprising the steps of:

predictive coding the at least part of the audio signal in order to obtain prediction coefficients which represent temporal properties, such as a temporal envelope, of the at least part of the audio signal;

transforming the prediction coefficients into a set of times representing the prediction coefficients; and

including the set of times in the encoded signal.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predictive coding is performed by a using a filter and wherein the prediction coefficients are filter coefficients.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the predictive coding is a linear predictive coding.

4. A method as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein prior to the predictive coding step a time domain to frequency domain transform is performed on the at least part of an audio signal in order to obtain a frequency domain signal, and wherein the predictive coding step is performed on the frequency domain signal rather than on the at least part of an audio signal.

5. A method as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the times are time domain derivatives or equivalents of line spectral frequencies.

6. A method as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the at least part of an audio signal is segmented in at least a first frame and a second frame and wherein the first frame and the second frame have an overlap including at least one time of each frame.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein for a pair of times consisting of one time of the first frame in the overlap and one time of the second frame in the overlap, a derived time is included in the encoded signal, which derived time is a weighted average of the one time of the first frame and the one time of the second frame.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the derived time is equal to a selected one of the times of the pair of times.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein a time closer to a boundary of a frame has lower weight than a time further away from said boundary.

10. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein a given time of the second frame is differentially encoded with respect to a time in the first frame.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the given time of the second frame is differentially encoded with respect to a time in the first frame which is closer in time to the given time in the second frame than any other time in the first frame.

12. A method as claimed in any of the claims 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11, wherein further an indicator, such as a single bit, is included in the encoded signal, which indicator indicates whether or not the encoded signal includes a derived time in the overlap to which the indicator relates.

13. A method as claimed in any of the claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, wherein further an indicator, such as a single bit, is included in the encoded signal, which indicator indicates the type of coding which is used to encode the times or derived times in the overlap to which the indicator relates.

14. An encoder for coding at least part of an audio signal in order to obtain an encoded signal, the encoder comprising:

means for predictive coding the at least part of the audio signal in order to obtain prediction coefficients which represent temporal properties, such as a temporal envelope, of the at least part of the audio signal;

means for transforming the prediction coefficients into a set of times representing the prediction coefficients; and

means for including the set of times in the encoded signal.

15. An encoded signal representing at least part of an audio signal, the encoded signal including a set of times representing prediction coefficients which prediction coefficients represent temporal properties, such as a temporal envelope, of the at least part of the audio signal.

16. An encoded signal as claimed in claim 15, wherein the times are related to at least a first frame and a second frame in the at least part of an audio signal and wherein the first frame and the second frame have an overlap including at least one time of each frame, and wherein the encoded signal includes at least one derived time, which derived time is a weighted average of the one time of the first frame and the one time of the second frame.

17. An encoded signal as claimed in claim 16, the encoded signal further comprising an indicator, such as a single bit, which indicator indicates whether or not the encoded signal includes a derived time in the overlap to which the indicator relates.

18. A storage medium having stored thereon an encoded signal as claimed in any of the claims 15, 16, or 17.

19. A method of decoding an encoded signal representing at least part of an audio signal, the encoded signal including a set of times representing prediction coefficients which prediction coefficients represent temporal properties, such as a temporal envelope, of the at least part of the audio signal, the method comprising the steps of:

deriving the temporal properties, such as the temporal envelope, from the set of times and using these temporal properties in order to obtain a decoded signal, and

providing the decoded signal.

20. A method of decoding as claimed in claim 19, wherein the method comprises the step of transforming the set of times in order to obtain the prediction coefficients, and wherein the temporal properties are derived from the prediction coefficients rather than from the set of times.

21. A method of decoding as claimed in claim 19 or 20, wherein the times are related to at least a first frame and a second frame in the at least part of an audio signal and wherein the first frame and the second frame have an overlap including at least one time of each frame, and wherein the encoded signal includes at least one derived time, which derived time is a weighted average of a pair of times consisting of one time of the first frame in the overlap and one time of the second frame in the overlap in the original at least part of an audio signal, wherein the method comprises further the step of using the at least one derived time in decoding the first frame as well as in decoding the second frame.

22. A method of decoding as claimed in claim 21, wherein the encoded signal further comprising an indicator, such as a single bit, which indicator indicates whether or not the encoded signal includes a derived time in the overlap to which the indicator relates, the method further comprising the steps of:

obtaining the indicator from the encoded signal,

only in the case that the indicator indicates that the overlap to which the indicator relates does include a derived time, performing the step of using the at least one derived time in decoding the first frame as well as in decoding the second frame.

23. A decoder for decoding an encoded signal representing at least part of an audio signal, the encoded signal including a set of times representing prediction coefficients which prediction coefficients represent temporal properties, such as a temporal envelope, of the at least part of the audio signal, the method comprising the steps of:

deriving the temporal properties, such as the temporal envelope, from the set of time and using these temporal properties in order to obtain a decoded signal, and

providing the decoded signal.

24. A transmitter comprising:

an input unit for receiving at least part of an audio signal,

an encoder as claimed in claim 14 for encoding the at least part of an audio signal to obtain an encoded signal, and

an output unit for transmitting the encoded signal.

25. A receiver comprising:

an input unit for receiving an encoded signal representing at least part of an audio signal,

a decoder as claimed in claim 23 for decoding the encoded signal to obtain a decoded signal, and

an output unit for providing the decoded signal.

26. A system comprising a transmitter as claimed in claim 24 and a receiver as claimed in claim 25.